



Recycling Rewards – Morgan Hill’s Curbside Recycling Program

We collect and recycle the following in our program:

- * Mixed Paper * Cardboard * Newspaper * Yard Trimmings * Food Waste ***
- * Food Soiled Paper * Plastics * Plastic Bags * Glass * Metals * Scrap Metal ***
- * Used Motor Oil * Used Oil Filters * Household Batteries ***

Our Challenge To You

The City of Morgan Hill has challenged its residents to voluntarily meet State mandated recycling goals. As a community, we are unusual because we are asking you to voluntarily recycle and reduce the amount you throw in the trash each month. Other cities use a volume-based rate system which charges residents based on how much garbage they throw out. The more trash, the higher your bill. Our City Council thinks Morgan Hill residents are different. We in Morgan Hill pride ourselves on being a community that doesn’t rely on economic mandates to force us to recycle. Instead, we maintain our unlimited collection program because it’s more convenient for the residents, with the expectation that people are going to recycle because it’s the right thing to do – not because they don’t have room for their recyclables in their garbage can.

Here Is How To Recycle In Morgan Hill

In our recycling program, we must separate our recyclables by material. The different materials we collect are:

I. Paper and Fiber Products (Mixed Paper)

Mixed paper includes: white paper, colored paper, computer paper, newspaper, shredded paper, envelopes, cereal boxes, cracker boxes, gift boxes, glossy paper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, unsolicited mail, Post-It™ notes, paper egg cartons, brown paper grocery bags and wrapping paper. Box liners from cereal type products need to be removed.

Corrugated Cardboard must be cut down to pieces no larger than 3’ x 3’ and flattened. Small boxes may go into your mixed paper cart. Larger pieces will get stuck in the cart and prevent it from emptying completely, so they need to be placed next to the cart.

What types of paper are unacceptable? Metallic paper (like foil type wrapping paper), photo paper, and waxy or plasticized paper. These types of paper products aren’t recyclable and go into the garbage.

II. Plastics, Glass, Metal and Asseptics

In our program, these materials all go together. We accept the following:

Plastics (#1 through #7 only) which include clear, opaque & solid colored bottles & jugs including milk jugs, water bottles, shampoo bottles, yogurt cups, margarine tubs, polystyrene blocks, polystyrene packing peanuts (must be secured in a clear plastic bag), polystyrene and plastic “take-out” containers (please rinse), meat trays, and plastic bags such as grocery, produce, dry cleaning and newspaper bags. Other plastics and caps with no code go in the garbage.

Glass includes any kind of glass food jar or beverage bottle such as wine and juice bottles, mayonnaise and spaghetti sauce jars. Remove the lids and place them separately in your recycling container and rinse the jars.

Metals include all metal food and beverage containers including those made of aluminum, tin, steel and bi-metal such as tuna, soda, pet food, soup cans and aluminum foil. Lids are ok. Pots, pans, toasters and metal items that will fit in the cart are also accepted. No microwaves, car parts or small pieces such as nuts, bolts, and hangers.

Aseptic Containers which include milk cartons and juice boxes, even the small ones.

III. Yard Trimmings, Food Waste, and Food Soiled Paper

In our program, these materials all go together. We accept the following:

Yard Trimmings which include grass clippings, leaves and small branches (less than 3' in length and 6" in diameter) go into the green yard waste cart. Overflow can be placed in regular 32 gallon garbage cans or tied in bundles no larger than 3' x 3' and placed next to your cart. You may place up to 7 additional cans or bundles out each recycling day. Do not put more than 150 lbs. in your yard waste cart or more than 50 lbs. in any extra collection container. If you have more than 7 cans or bundles, call South Valley Disposal & Recycling at 842-3358 and they will provide you with a "yard waste voucher" which will allow you to take your yard waste directly to the San Martin Transfer Station at no charge. Do not use plastic bags to collect yard waste – plastic does not compost! Do not put rocks, dirt, concrete, building materials, ashes, fruit or vegetable waste, ice plants, palm fronds, cactus, poison ivy, poison oak, bug-infested plants, animal waste, tree stumps, trunks, painted tree debris, or any other garbage in your yard waste cart. **NOTE:** Yard trimmings collection is available to residential customers only. No landscapers or gardeners with commercial South Valley Disposal accounts may participate in this program.

Food Waste which includes fruits and vegetables, meats, bones, eggs, seafood, cheeses, plate scrapings, grains, breads, and coffee grounds.

Food Soiled Paper which includes pizza boxes, used paper plates, paper towels, paper napkins, and other food contaminated paper that would normally go into the garbage.

"Under-the-sink" containers to assist you in storing your food wastes are available upon request. We've found that simple plastic pitchers work the best. They have lids to seal in odor, fit nicely under the sink and can be easily placed in the dishwasher. To request yours, call South Valley Disposal & Recycling at 842-3358 or stop by City Hall, 17555 Peak Avenue, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm.

IV. Household Batteries

Household Batteries should be placed in a zipper-style plastic bag and placed next to or on top of your plastic, glass, and metal recycling container.

How do I use my Recycling Containers?

As a part of basic garbage service, each residence is issued 3 collection containers, one for **mixed paper**, one for **plastic, glass and metal**, and one for **yard trimmings**. You have a choice of container sizes for your recyclables. Container choices for yard trimmings are a green 32 or 96-gallon wheeled, covered cart. **Yard trimmings will ONLY be collected in these containers or as detailed above.** Container choices for other recyclables are: a small, open-topped bin which holds 18 gallons, a 32-gallon wheeled, covered cart, or a 64-gallon wheeled, covered cart. It is ok to switch these containers based on your needs. For example, if you don't have very many cans and bottles, but you have a lot of paper, you may use the bin for cans and bottles and the brown cart for mixed paper. When you start your service, please be sure to ask for the mix of containers that will best meet your needs. Residents may request as many extra recycling containers as they need at no additional charge. Additional containers are requested from South Valley Disposal & Recycling at 842-3358.

Are you a "Do-It-Yourselfer"?

If so, used **Motor Oil** and fully drained **Oil Filters** that are placed in specially provided containers will be collected at the curb on your recycling day. Call South Valley Disposal & Recycling at 842-3358 to receive oil collection containers and sealable oil filter bags.

How Often Are Recyclables Collected?

Yard trimmings are collected weekly on your regularly scheduled collection day. All other recyclables are picked up every-other-week on your regularly scheduled collection day. If you need a schedule, please call South Valley Disposal & Recycling at 842-3358.